



**National Park Service**  
**U.S. Department of the Interior**

Apostle Islands  
National Lakeshore

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## **Apostle Islands News Release**

**Release date:** Immediate  
**Contact(s):** Myra Dec, August 12-13  
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**Phone number:** (715) 779-3398 x201  
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### **Proposed Rules for Snowmobile and Off-Road Vehicle Use are Published in the Federal Register, Open for 60-Day Comment Period**

Proposed rules for snowmobile and off-road vehicle use at Apostle Islands National Lakeshore have been published in the Federal Register and are now available for comment until October 12, according to Superintendent Bob Krumenaker.

These proposed rules authorize the operation of snowmobiles and off-road vehicles on certain routes within Apostle Islands National Lakeshore for ice fishing and other purposes. The proposed rules designate routes and areas on the frozen water surfaces of Lake Superior and mainland unit, as well as remove permit requirements for certain power tools used for cutting through the ice. As in the past, snowmobile and off-road vehicle use on island land surfaces will not be authorized.

Currently national regulations prohibit the use of snowmobiles and off-road motor vehicles within areas of the National Park System, except on designated routes and water surfaces that are used by motor vehicles or motorboats during other seasons.

Superintendent Bob Krumenaker said “The park has kept a promise to local users that a special regulation would be developed at the earliest opportunity. We appreciate the patience and support of the community, especially the ice fishermen, and believe that this regulation will meet the needs of winter users while getting us into full compliance with federal law. It protects the park while making it accessible, and it’s the right thing to do.”

The proposed rule appears in the Federal Register under RIN 1024-AD26 on page 49841.

It is available on line at either [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) by searching on one of the above numbers, or at the park's web site at <http://www.nps.gov/apis/04-18429.pdf> Copies will also be available at park visitor centers.

Krumenaker added that “if there is no unforeseen controversy as a result of the national comment period, a final regulation could be in place as early as the 2004-5 winter use season. We’ll do everything we can to make that happen.”

Comments should be addressed to: Superintendent, Apostle Islands National Lakeshore, Route 1, Box 4, Bayfield, Wisconsin 54814. Comments may also be submitted electronically to: [APIS\\_Winter\\_Use@nps.gov](mailto:APIS_Winter_Use@nps.gov).

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